



Security Council

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**Letter dated 24 February 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Serbia and Montenegro to the United
Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request that the letter dated 23 February 2004 addressed to you by Goran Svilanović, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro (see annex), be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roksanda Ninčić
First Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 24 February 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

23 February 2004

I am writing to you deeply disturbed by the latest crime in Kosovo and Metohija in which 36-year old Zlatomir Kostić from Kosovo Polje and 24-year old Milijana Marković from Staro Gracko were perfidiously ambushed and killed.

The fact that since the deployment of KFOR and UNMIK in Kosovo and Metohija as many as 22 Serbs, in Lipljan alone, were killed and that none of the crimes were resolved causes particular indignation. The tragic killing of two innocent civilians brings into serious question the decision of KFOR Command made just a few days before the crime to withdraw the multinational brigade "Centre" in charge of security in the area of Lipljan.

The proclaimed goals of the United Nations to ensure security, freedom of movement and respect for human and minority rights to all citizens of Kosovo and Metohija have been seriously undermined. It is difficult to discuss the implementation of any standard of a democratic society in a situation in which KFOR and UNMIK cannot guarantee the Serbs even the right to life. Unfortunately, even the strongest condemnations by the Security Council and other relevant international organizations have failed to contribute to the improvement of the security situation or to the identification and apprehension of the perpetrators of these crimes. Allow me to recall the still unresolved murders of 14 farmers in Staro Gacko, the Stolić family in Obilić and two children in Goraždevac. Such inefficiency on the part of KFOR and UNMIK seriously brings into question their authority, as well as the authority of the Security Council which mandated them to implement resolution 1244 (1999). It also sends a message to extremists and terrorists in Kosovo and Metohija that their ethnically motivated violence will continue to go unpunished.

I am convinced that no one can accept the fact that at the beginning of the twenty-first century the life of each and every Serb is being threatened in a part of Europe where a United Nations force is deployed. It is therefore inappropriate to find fault with Serbs for having reservations vis-à-vis some of the initiatives which claim that a satisfactory level of security in Kosovo and Metohija has been achieved and that a situation has been created in which they can protect their interests and exercise their rights within the existing institutions. Moreover, it does not stand to reason that the international community should single out parallel institutions as one of the major problems in the establishment of the rule of law in Kosovo and Metohija while the Serbs live in permanent fear in the face of continuing crime and terror.

The latest killings tragically prove that so far all statements, condemnations and demands of the Security Council have unfortunately not succeeded in putting an end to terror in Kosovo and Metohija. This time, therefore, Serbia and Montenegro expects the Security Council to undertake a decisive and concrete action in order to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of these and other crimes, thus preventing further crimes and ensuring security for all citizens in Kosovo and Metohija. Otherwise, instead of creating a multi-ethnic society to which we are all

committed, we shall soon have an ethnically pure Kosovo and Metohija. I am convinced that neither the Security Council nor any member of the international community is ready to assume responsibility for such a course of events.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Goran Svilanović
